

DatelineERS

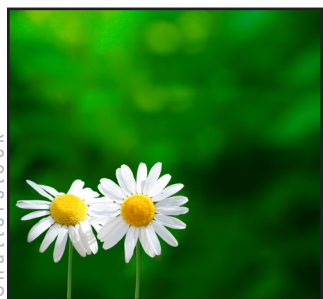
New ERS research and analysis at: www.ers.usda.gov

Economic Research Service

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

ERS is a primary source of economic research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.



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Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade.

This Month

- Rice
- Feed
- Wheat
- Oil Crops
- Cotton and Wool
- Sugar and Sweeteners
- Livestock, Dairy and Poultry
- Fruit and Tree Nuts

All reports along with a calendar of future releases are available at:

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

Energy Use in the U.S. Food System

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR94

Energy is an important input in growing, processing, packaging, distributing, storing, preparing, serving, and disposing of food. *Energy Use in the U.S. Food System* shows that in the United States, use of energy along the food chain for food purchases by or for U.S. households increased between 1997 and 2002 at more than six times the rate of increase in total domestic energy use. This increase in food-related energy flows is over 80 percent of energy flow increases nationwide over the period. The use of more energy-intensive technologies throughout the U.S. food system accounted for half of this increase, with the remainder attributed to population growth and higher real (inflation-adjusted) per capita food expenditures. A projection of food-related energy use suggests that food-related energy use as a share of the national energy budget grew from 14.4 percent in 2002 to an estimated 15.7 percent in 2007.

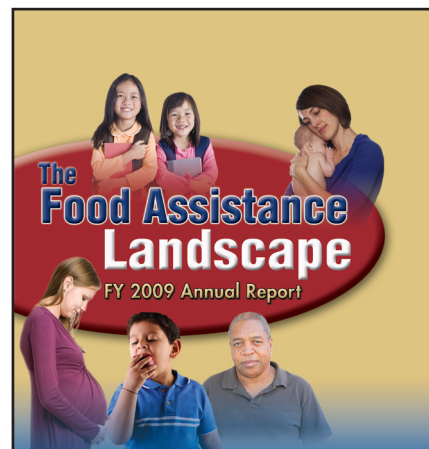


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The Food Assistance Landscape

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB6-7

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) domestic food and nutrition programs affect the lives of millions of Americans each day. About one in four Americans participates in one or more of fifteen USDA food and nutrition assistance programs at some point during the year. Accounting for over two-thirds of USDA's annual budget, these programs represent a significant Federal investment. *The Food Assistance Landscape FY 2009 Annual Report* uses preliminary data from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, the agency responsible for managing the programs, to examine trends in food and nutrition assistance programs through fiscal 2009 (October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009). It also discusses a recent ERS report that examines the prevalence, severity, and characteristics of food insecurity in households with children.



Food Assistance Programs Among Low-Income Children Changing

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR92

In 1996, the safety net for poor households with children fundamentally changed when Federal legislation replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Changing Participation in Food Assistance Programs Among Low-Income Children After Welfare Reform investigates participation in, and benefits received from, AFDC/TANF and food assistance programs before and after the legislation for children in low-income households (income below 300 percent of the Federal poverty line).

The results show that overall, the share of children in households that received benefits from AFDC/TANF or food assistance programs grew from 35 percent to 52 percent. However, the net result of these changes is that average total inflation-adjusted household benefits from all programs examined declined. The decline was largest among children in the poorest households.



WIC Program Experiences Rising Infant Formula Costs

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR93



Rising Infant Formula Costs to the WIC Program found that between 57 and 68 percent of all infant formula sold in the United States in 2004-06 was purchased through WIC. Across WIC State agencies, real net wholesale prices increased by an average 21 cents for 26 fluid ounces of reconstituted formula (WIC's maximum daily allowance during the study period) between States' previous and current rebate contracts (i.e., those in effect in December 2008). As a result of the increase in real net wholesale prices, WIC State agencies paid about \$127 million more for infant formula over the course of a year. This was equivalent to the cost of supporting 134,200 persons in WIC for a year or about 2 percent of all women, infants, and children participating in WIC in fiscal 2008.

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